

The

**COMPLETE**

# IDIOT'S

Guide to the

# World Wide Web

new

Peter Kent

Quick and easy Web travel  
for beginners and beyond

Idiot-proof steps to  
getting connected, finding  
stuff, and more

Down-to-earth advice  
when the going gets tough

alpha  
books

*"For those of us who are  
clearly intellectually superior,  
the World Wide Web is quite  
simple. The rest of you,  
however, should consider  
this book."*



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**helper** See *viewers*.

**history list** A list of Web document's that you've seen in the current session (some *browsers'* history lists also show documents from previous sessions). You can return to a document by selecting it in the history list.

**home page** 1. The Web document your *browser* displays when you start the program. 2. A sort of "main page" at a Web site. Personally, I don't like this second definition, but there's not much I can do about it.

**host** A computer connected directly to the Internet. A *service provider's* computer is a host, as are computers with *permanent connections*. Computers with *dial-in terminal* connections are not; they are terminals connected to the service provider's host. Computers with *dial-in direct* connections can be thought of as "sort of" hosts. They act like a host while connected.

**hotlist** A list of *bookmarks*, *URLs* of Web documents you want to save for future use. You can return to a particular document by selecting it from the list.

**HTML** HyperText Markup Language. The basic "coding" system used to create Web documents.

**HTTP** HyperText Transfer Protocol. The data-transmission *protocol* used to transfer Web documents across the Internet.

**HTTPD** HyperText Transfer Protocol Daemon. A *Web server* program. See also *daemon*.

**hyperlink** See *link*.

**hypermedia** Loosely used to mean a *hypertext* document that contains, or has links to, other types of media, such as pictures, sound, video, and so on.

**hypertext** An computerized document that contains *links* to other documents. These links may work when you type a number, select a link and press Enter, click on the link with the mouse, click on a button, select from a list of documents, and so on.

**IAP** Internet Access Provider, another term for *service provider*.

**index documents** A Web *document* that lets you search some kind of database.

**index servers** A special program, accessed through an *index document*, that lets you search some kind of database.

**inline images** A picture inside a Web *document*. These graphics must be *.GIF* or *.XBM* format files.

**Internet** The term internet spelled with a small *i* refers to networks connected to one another. The Internet is not the only internet; it's simply the largest.

**JPEG** A compressed graphic format often found on the Web.

**kiosk mode** A special mode—present in Mosaic, AIR Mosaic, and OS/2 Warp's WebExplorer—that lets you remove most or all controls (toolbar buttons, URL bar, and menu options) from the *browser*, so the program may be run in a public place. It's also very handy for making room for a document. (In Web Navigator, it's called *presentation mode*.)

**Line Mode browser** A very simple text-based *browser* available for most computer systems used by *service providers*.

**link** A connection between two Web documents. Links are generally pieces of text or pictures that, when clicked on, make the *browser* request and display another Web document.

**linked image** An image that is not *in* a Web document (that's an *inline image*), but is "connected" to a document by a link.

**Lynx** Probably the best text-based Web *browser*, available for most systems used by *service providers*.

**MacWeb** A Macintosh Web *browser*, from EINet.

**mail robot** An e-mail system that automatically carries out some sort of procedure for you. The system that retrieves Web documents and e-mails them to you is a mail robot.

**mailto: URL** This *URL* makes a *browser's* e-mail window appear (if that browser has *mailto:* support). You can type the *mailto: URL* into a *URL* text box, in the same way you'd type a normal document *URL* into a text box. Or you can click on a link in which a Web author has placed a *mailto: URL*.

**main screen** Lynx refers to the first page you see when you start a Lynx session as the *main screen*. This is the equivalent of the *home page*.